ROBOT WARS
ROBOT WARS FILE
FUNFAX
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FILE
FUNFAX
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INSIDE YOUR ROBOT WARS FILE:

PERSONAL
ALL ABOUT YOU

DIARY
YOUR PLANS

HALL OF FAME
ROBOT PROFILES

THE HISTORY OF THE ROBOT
GUIDE TO ROBOTICS

THE SECRETS OF THE HOUSE
GET THE LOW DOWN ON SIR KILLALOT AND CHUMS

BEHIND THE SCENES
MEET THE TEAM!

SPARE PARTS
ROBOT STICKERS
DOOR HANGER
BOOK MARK

INSIDE THIS FILE YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ROBOT WARS. THERE ARE SEVEN SENSATIONAL SECTIONS JAM-PACKED WITH INFORMATION ABOUT ALL YOUR FAVOURITE BOTS. THERE ARE EVEN INTERVIEWS WITH THE ROBOT WARS TEAM – AND LOADS OF AMAZING ROBOT TRIVIA TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS AMUSED FOR HOURS.

AS WELL AS CONTAINING ALL THE INFO ON ROBOT WARS YOU'LL EVER NEED TO KNOW, YOUR FUNFILE HAS LOTS OF SPACE INSIDE FOR YOU TO FILL IN DETAILS ABOUT YOURSELF, TO RECORD NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR FRIENDS AND TO PLAN THE YEAR AHEAD!

AT THE BACK OF THE FILE YOU'LL FIND SOME GREAT STICKERS TOO!

PERSONAL

PERSONAL
DIARY
HISTORY OF THE ROBOT
HALL OF FAME
THE SECRETS OF THE HOUSE
SCENES

PERSONAL

Welcome to your Robot Wars Funfax. Inside you'll find lots of interesting and amusing info about all your favourite robots – from the competitors to the giants of the ring like Sgt Bash and Dead Metal.

There are some fascinating facts about robots, too – like when did they first appear? What can they do? And what will they be doing in the future? There's a great pull-out chart featuring Sir Killalot and friends – and revealing a few of the secrets of the house!

We've also put together a unique behind-the-scenes look at Robot Wars. There are exclusive interviews with all the presenters where they tell us what it's like to be part of such a successful show, and how they deal with the huge egos of the house robots!

So make yourself comfortable, start turning the pages of your Robot Wars Funfax – and as a certain person might say, 'Let the wars begin!'

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

MOBILE:

E-MAIL:

BIRTHDAY:

HEIGHT:

FAVOURITE ROBOT:

SCHOOL:

ADDRESS:

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

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FAVOURITE ROBOTS

NAME:

TEAM CAPTAIN:

TRACK RECORD
IN PREVIOUS WARS:

SEEDED:

BEST BIT:

WORST BIT:

BEST BATTLE:

STICK
A PICTURE
OF YOUR
ROBOT
HERE

FAVOURITE ROBOTS

NAME:

TEAM CAPTAIN:

TRACK RECORD
IN PREVIOUS WARS:

SEEDED:

BEST BIT:

WORST BIT:

BEST BATTLE:

STICK
A PICTURE
OF YOUR
ROBOT
HERE

DESIGN YOUR OWN ROBOT

Always fancied creating your own robot? Use this space to sketch some designs.

Basic shape

Key weapons

Where do the component parts come from?

Ideas for decorative finish

FINAL DIAGRAM OF YOUR ROBOT

DON'T FORGET TO THINK OF A TEAM NAME . . .

DIARY

DIARY

Have you spotted when the next series of Robot Wars starts – or found out Shunt's birthday? If so, write it all down here.

JANUARY

1	2	3
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ROBOCHICKEN
THIS FUNNY LOOKING ROBOT WAS PUT TOGETHER USING PARTS FROM A TOILET AND A RUBBER GLOVE!

FEBRUARY

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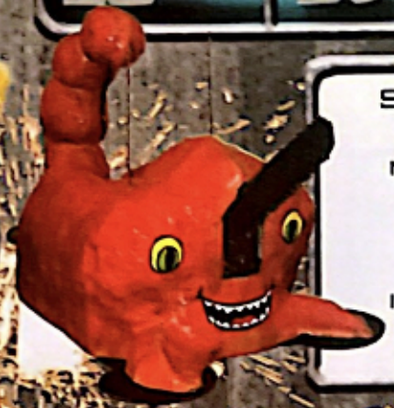
SCORPION
SADLY, THERE WAS NO STING IN THE TAIL FROM THIS SMILING ENTRY TO SERIES IV, DESPITE ITS IMPRESSIVE ARMOURY OF CHAINSAWS.



MARCH

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MILLY-ANN BUG
ANOTHER ODDBALL ROBOT. DESPITE EXITING EARLY ON IN SERIES III, THIS BUG WON 'MOST ORIGINAL ENTRY' PRIZE IN SERIES II.

APRIL

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ROBOPIG
THIS FANTASTIC LOOKING PIGGY-PINK ROBOT CAME SNORTING AND GRUNTING INTO THE ARENA, BUT SADLY, COULDN'T LAST THE COURSE.

MAY

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Major Tom
This amazing robot was made from bicycles, golf caddies and lawn mowers. Major Tom himself comes from an old bubble gum machine.

JUNE

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MouseTrap
Despite MouseTrap's odd design, that powerful snapper got it through to the semi-finals of series IV before Stinger got the better of it.

JULY

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The Creature

Ten people helped build this frightening looking robot. Its most awesome weapon is a mechanical forklift.

AUGUST

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War Hog

This commando-hog is not as friendly as he looks, and he moves around fast – not surprising as he's put together using starter motors from three cars!

SEPTEMBER

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DESTRUCT-A-BUBBLE
THIS PRETTY ROBOT IS TOUGHER THAN SHE LOOKS. SHE IS MADE FROM OLD TRACTOR TYRES AND A FIRE EXTINGUISHER. HOT-STUFF!

OCTOBER

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ATTILA THE DRUM
THIS STRANGE LOOKING ROBOT CAN MOVE AT SPEEDS OF UP TO 15MPH, AND ITS FURRY EXTERIOR HIDES A NASTY WEAPON – A PICKAXE!

NOVEMBER

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BANSHEE
A SCARY, NIGHTMARISH LOOKING ROBOT. ANY BOTS BRAVE ENOUGH TO ATTACK BANSHEE ARE SURPRISED BY ITS ABILITY TO REVOLVE!

DECEMBER

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DIÓTÓIR
DIÓTÓIR'S DONE WELL, REACHING HEAT FINALS IN SERIES I, II AND III OF ROBOT WARS. IT'S COVERED IN FUR – TO MATCH ITS ROBOTEERS WAISTCOATS!

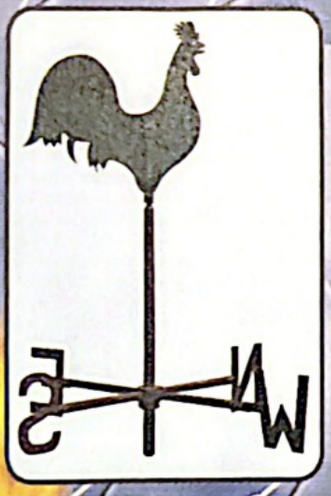
TOP TEN ROBOTS THAT DIDNT MAKE IT

HISTORY OF THE ROBOT

HISTORY OF THE ROBOT

Clockwork

Before robots, mechanical devices were known as automatons. The Egyptians are thought to have invented water driven clocks around 500BC.



In a flap

In 1350 a mechanical cockerel was perched on top of a French cathedral, where it then flapped its wings and crowed every day at noon.

Chess cheat

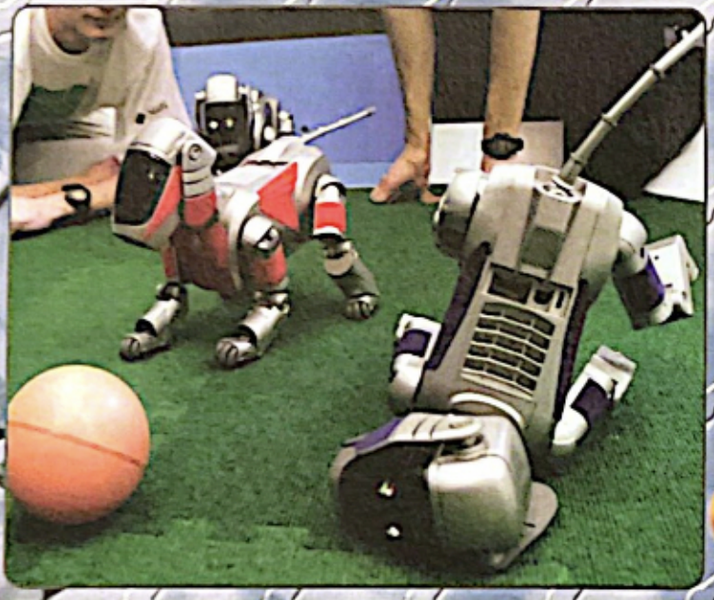
In 1769, Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen produced a life-sized automaton that sat at a large cabinet and kept beating people at chess. It was several years before anyone discovered that the machine was actually operated by a small man sitting inside! Technology has sinced moved on and these days you really can play chess against a robot.

Card work

In 1801, Joseph Jacquard invented a machine that used cards with holes punched in them. One part of the machine 'read' the cards and then 'told' the other parts what to do.

A Czech's mate

In 1921, a Czech writer called Karel Capek wrote a play called 'Rossum's Universal Robots'. It was the first time the word robot had been used. The word actually meant 'a worker of forced labour'.

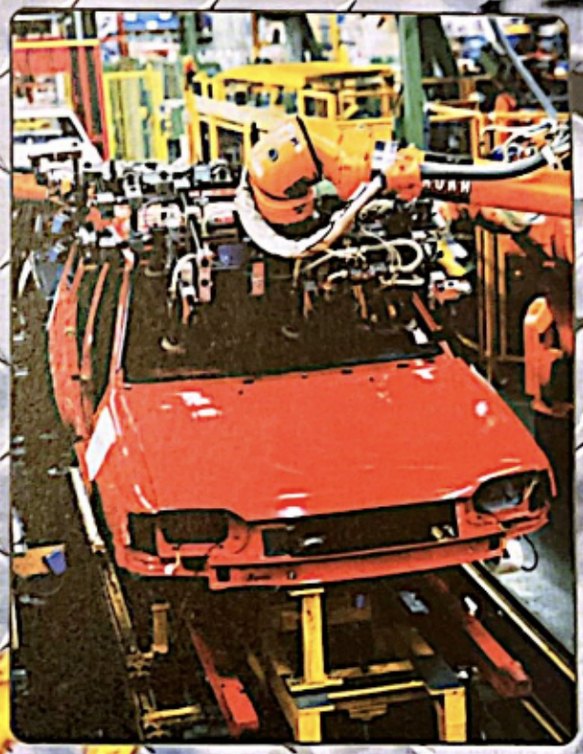


Man's best friend

In the1940s, two robots that moved by use of an electric motor were invented. 'Electro' could dance and count, while 'Sparko' the dog, could walk, bark and stand on its hind legs. In 1999, Aibo, Sony's robot dog made its first appearance – 3000 dogs were sold within 20 minutes.

Assembly point

In 1961, a Unimate robot began working at the General Motors factory in America. Today, about half the robots in the world are 'employed' building cars.



Over the moon

By the 1970s, robots were helping humans in space, and in 1997, Sojourner was the first robot to go for a walk on Mars.

Explorobots

In 1986, a robot camera called Jason discovered the wreck of the Titanic.

ROBOTS OF TODAY

Hired help

Robots are now capable of doing all kinds of tasks . . . like fruit-picking, filling cars with petrol – and waiting at tables!

Slug-like!

How about gastrobots – robots powered by food! A team from Bristol has developed a robot that helps in the garden by eating the slugs!

Halt, who goes there?

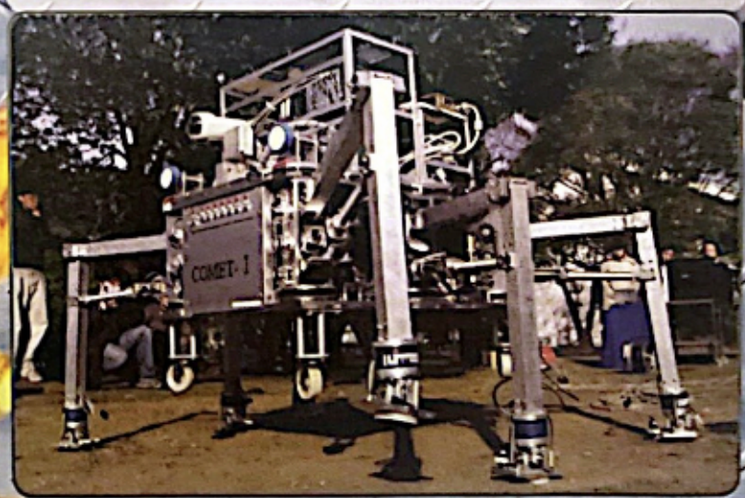
In Thailand, scientists have developed Roboguard, which uses infrared sensors to track suspects and is even armed with a laser-sighted gun!

Home help

Care-O-Bots have been designed to help around the home by fetching and carrying things. The Honda P-3 pictured here can walk a straight line, turn a corner and climb a flight of stairs. It can also 'see' to navigate around furniture.

Mine sweepers

The same team that developed the robot dinosaur for the British Museum are working on a robot rescue machine that can step through minefields or collapsed buildings.



Brick-built

Those clever people at Lego have also been hard at work, developing a plastic building brick that can think for itself. Their 'Mindstorms' set allows people to build intelligent, working robots.

Soothing experience

The Takara Jellyfish robot is the latest craze in Japan. Research shows that watching the jellyfish swim is good for soothing nerves and reducing stress levels. Takara also produce battery-powered fish and turtles that swim gently across an aquarium until they hit a wall – a sensor then triggers them to turn around and swim back.

Goal!

Sony's SDR-3X robot loves playing football. The latest 'walk' technology means it can change direction – and even shift its balance when it needs to.

It's a wind-up

Wind-up toy robots from the 1950s can be worth as much as £2,500 if they are in good condition.

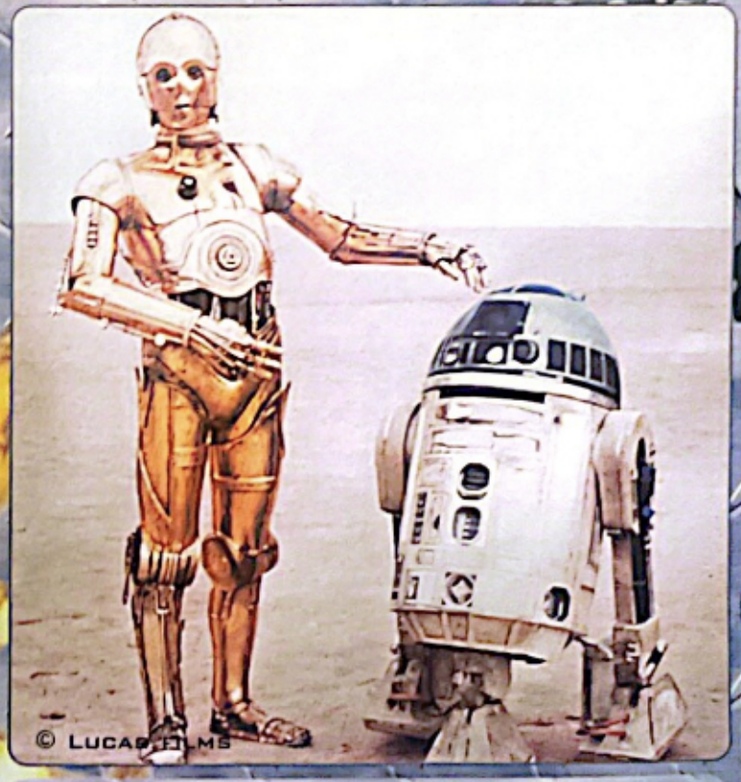
FAMOUS ROBOTS

Action!

There have been many famous robots in the movies. The first was Maria, who starred in a film made in 1927 called Metropous.

TV star

In the 1950s Robbie the Robot starred in a TV series called Forbidden Planet.



Star Wars

Perhaps the two most famous robots are squeaky R2D2 and the humanoid CP-30 from the Star Wars films.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Tiny glimmer of hope

Robomaus (right) is the smallest robot in the world. It is hoped that, one day, it may be possible to inject fleets of minute 'Nanorobots' into the human body to help repair it from inside. These robots are a nanometre in size, a billionth of a metre.

Steady as she goes

Robots are also being used in surgery because a robot hand is steadier than a human's, which means it can perform more intricate tasks.

Now you see me . . .

The latest 'polymorphic' robots can change shape by melting themselves down and then recycling themselves to carry out a new job. Not sure how the house Robots would cope with that!

HALL OF FAME

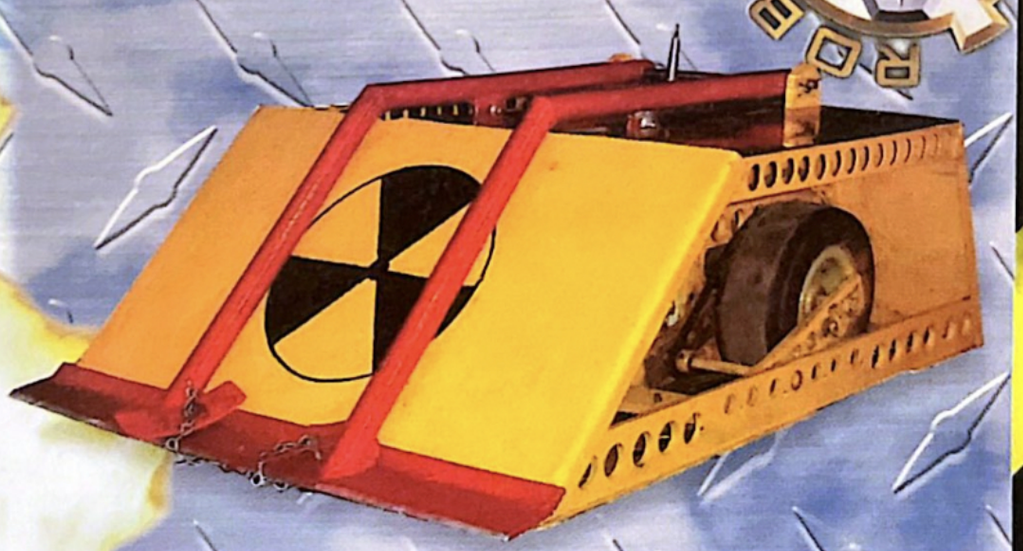
HALL OF FAME

ATOMIC:

ATOMIC WAS BUILT FROM OLD TRACTOR PARTS.

THE WEAPONRY:
AN INDUSTRIAL LOOKING FLIPPER BLADE CERTAINLY SCARED MANY COMPETITORS THAT CAME ACROSS ATOMIC.

THE LOWDOWN:
MUST BE ONE OF THE UNLUCKIEST ROBOTS AROUND! ATOMIC CAME UP AGAINST CHAOS NOT ONCE BUT TWICE IN THE LAST SERIES. IT WAS ALSO MASHED BY KILLALOT AT THE END OF THE BATTLE. ATOMIC'S ROBOTEERS ARE PROMISING A NEW ATOMIC THAT CONTAINS PARTS FROM A COMBINE HARVESTER!



BEHEMOTH:

More bulldozer than robot – the name actually means water-ox in Egyptian!

The Weaponry:
The widest pneumatic scoop ever to enter Robot Wars. It might not sound very frightening, but just ask any of the bots who have been dumped out of the ring what they think!

The Lowdown:
A consistent performer and runner-up in the first World Championships. Enjoys attacking the House Robots.

The Website:
www.teambehemoth.co.uk

BULLDOG BREED 2:

This robot is as strong as its name – and can happily tow a forklift truck.

The Weaponry:
Its mighty flippers threw two men over 2.5 metres into the air during trials!

The Lowdown:
The Bulldog was beaten by Robopig in its first ever heat! It came back for series IV – and fell foul of Stinger. But as Bulldog's website warns, 'Bulldog-Breed III is on its way. Beware of this dog – it is here for a fight and there is nowhere to hide.'

The Website:
bulldog-breed.co.uk

CHAOS 2:

Taking just six months and £250 to build, lawnmower motors provide the power to keep this bot on the move.

The Weaponry:
No spikes, chainsaws or cutting discs, just an incredibly strong flipper, powered by a fire extinguisher.

The Lowdown:
Chaos 2 has more medals than a war museum! The current champion is undergoing a refit for the next series – and rumour has it that new weapons could appear in series VI.

The Website:
gt-electronics.freeserve.co.uk

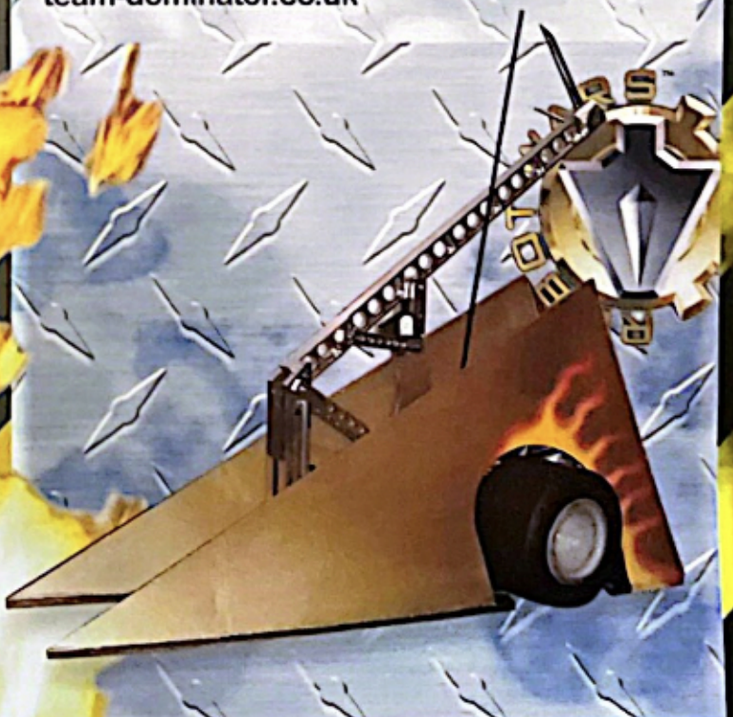
DOMINATOR 2:

Nippy around the arena, Dominator also has a plasma nitride-coated titanium shell which has been oven baked for extra strength.

The Weaponry:
An axe, although it let the team down in series IV. They have since been back to the drawing board.

The Lowdown:
In the last series the Dominator team reached the semifinals and on the way threw down a challenge to Shunt. But their batteries failed and they had to pull out.

The Website:
team-dominator.co.uk



ERIC:

"We wanted a non-aggressive name," says 'pacifist' team captain Mike Hammerton. "Something totally mundane." Eric take a bow! A Trojan in series III and IV, dodgy controls have been Eric's undoing. Two wheelchair motors and the starter motor from a lawn mower provide the revs to keep this bot on the move.

The Weaponry:
An extremely fast hydraulic lifting arm.

The Lowdown:
Despite the hype before series III, Eric crashed out early. He reached the heat final in series IV, however.

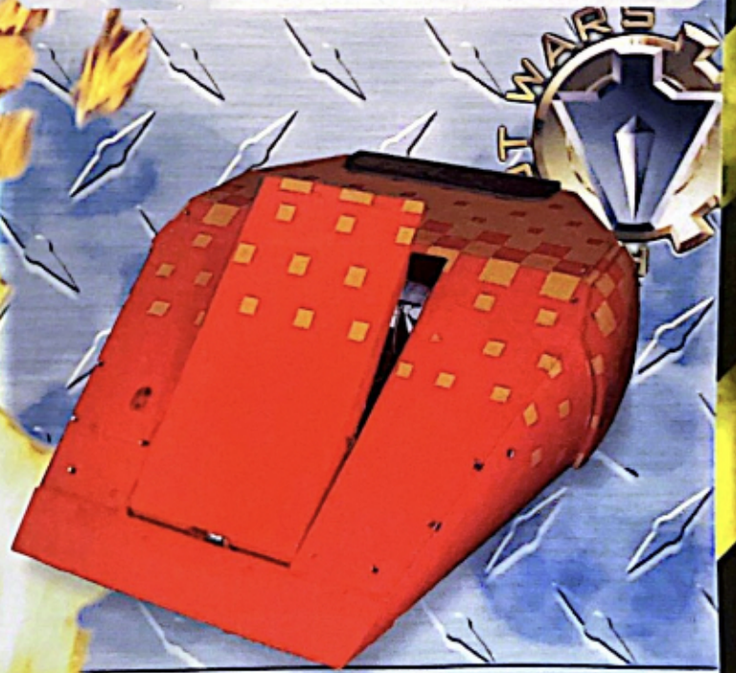
FIRESTORM II:

A wedge shape mounted on go-kart wheels makes this one of the most manoeuvrable robots around. Costing £2000 to build, this bot has one of the best paint jobs you're ever likely to see.

The Weaponry:
Standard CO2 powered flipper also has a little helper – a special wheel can be activated that allows it to wriggle underneath other robots.

The Lowdown:
Came third in series III, but couldn't finish the opposition off in series IV, with three of their four heats going to the judges.

The Website:
http://www.gbone1.force9.co.uk/rw99/index.htm

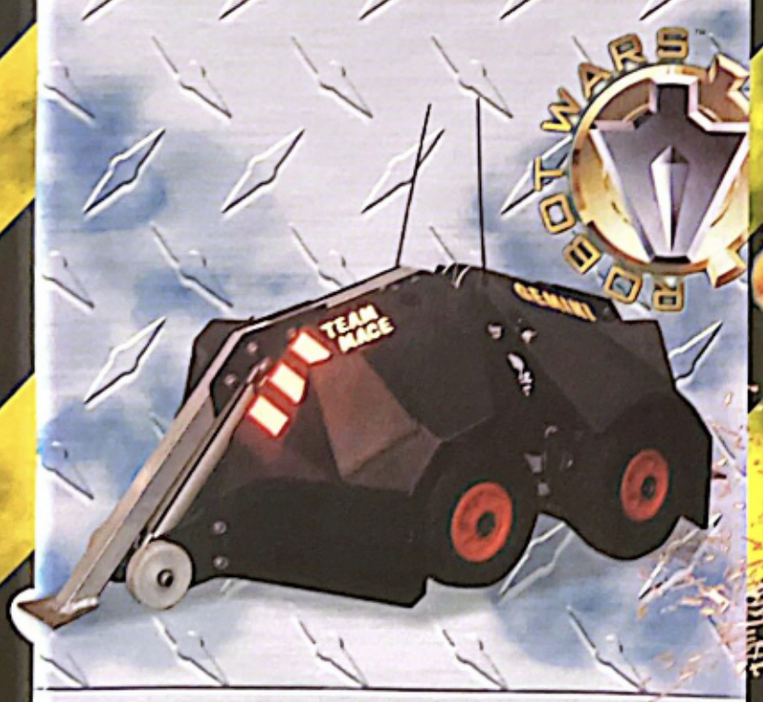


GEMINI:

This fine pair of early 21st century cluster bots were built by antique restorer Shane Howard.

The Weaponry:
Both robots have pneumatic flippers, capable of throwing 250kg.

The Lowdown:
Mean, moody and magnificent. But due to weight restrictions, Shane had to leave his rear unguarded in series IV and when an arena spike smashed into one of the cluster's delicate areas, it was game over. New weight laws in series V should mean no further embarrassments!



HYPNO-DISC:

There are three motors hidden inside the steel and aluminium shell of Hypnodisc, although the original prototype was made out of good old Lego!

The Weaponry:
Absolutely deadly – Hypnodisc cuts to the quick with its spinning metal disc. Even the team members were shocked when they saw the damage it could do.

The Lowdown:
Lost to Chaos 2 in the final of Series 3 when it was dumped on its back. Overall, however, this is a bot design others will want to copy.

The Website:
freespace.virgin.net/dave.rose/index.htm

Kronic the Wedgehog:

As befits a garden creature, Kronic was built in a greenhouse and is powered by two motors from a Sinclair C5, an electric car built in the 1980s.

The Weaponry:
The team lost their flipper in one heat and had to drive backwards to try and use the spike concealed at the back of Kronic.

The Lowdown:
First-time competitors in series IV who are coming back for more with a much faster, stronger, more dangerous wedgehog. Kronic II is going to have two flippers – and is aiming for a top speed of 20mph!

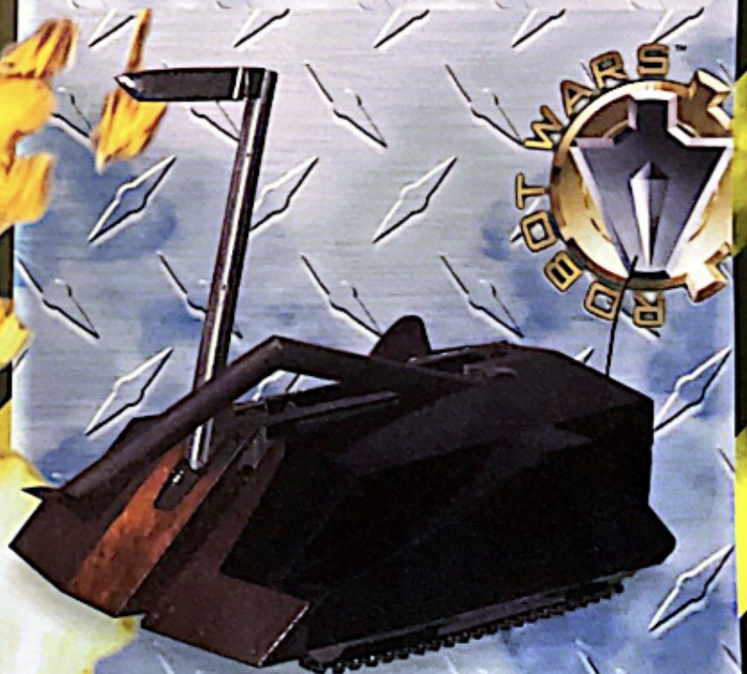
The Website:
www.kronic.co.uk

Mortis:

The oldest fighting robot on the circuit, Mortis has now been retired from the ring. In the last series though, the team managed to get hold of a new grade of flame resistant material (called Kevlar) for the body work BEFORE the boys at Formula One racing did!

The Weaponry:
In tests, the Mortis axe punched holes through 4mm military specification titanium. Is that tough, or what!

The Lowdown:
Mortis has always enjoyed a love-hate relationship with its audience. It failed to self-right during its heat final in series IV as the team had forgotten to fix on one of its robot-ears.



101:

One of only a few robots capable of fighting either way up, 101 is also proof that you don't have to spend a fortune to build a Soldier of Fortune! She cost an unbelievable £1.01 to build!

The Weaponry:
A vicious spike that flies out at 200 mph – well, it did once. Unfortunately it was so powerful that it flew straight across the arena – and into the bullet-proof plastic at the other end!

The Lowdown:
Another old-time gladiator who's putting her tracks up for series V.

The Website:
www.robot101.fsnet.co.uk

PANIC ATTACK:

Not the biggest and certainly not the fastest, Panic Attack has been one of the most successful bots ever! Its power comes from windscreen-wiper motors 'borrowed' from a lorry.

The Weaponry:
Panic Attack's lifting arm has proved an effective weapon, as has the self-righting mechanisms, while even the house bots have found it hard to penetrate a shell that contains bullet-proof fibreglass.

The Lowdown:
Winner of series II, and semi-finalist a year later, Panic Attack once went ten battles without defeat.

The Website:
rswww.com/panic_attack

PLUNDERSTORM!

A ROBOT THAT IS COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED BY THE TEAM THAT CONTROLS IT! THE INTERNATIONAL WRECK CREW HAS ONE MISSION – TO BEAT THE HOUSE ROBOTS – AND THAT, QUITE SIMPLY, IS WHY WE LOVE THEM!

THE WEAPONRY!
WHO KNOWS? EITHER THE TEAM LIKE TO KEEP IT A SECRET – OR THEY HAVEN'T REALLY GOT A CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON!

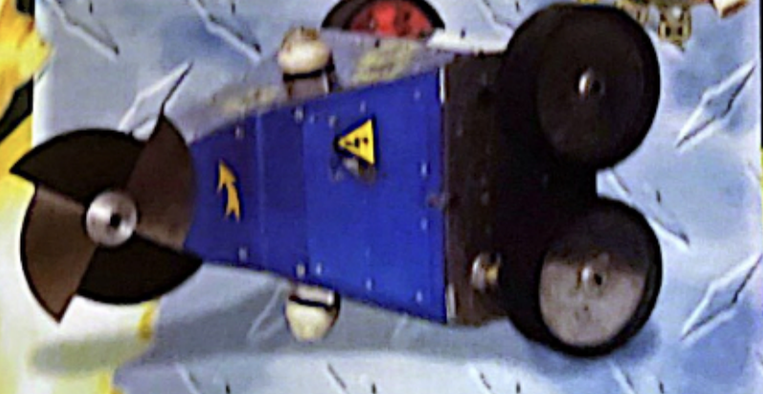
THE LOWDOWN!
THE TERM 'GRUDGE MATCH' MAY WELL HAVE BEEN INVENTED JUST FOR PLUNDERSTORM AND SIR KILLALOT, WHO SEEM TO GET ON THE WRONG SIDE OF EVERYONE THEY MEET!

PUSSYCAT!

WITH A TOP SPEED OF 20 MPH, PUSSYCAT IS ONE OF THE FASTEST ROBOTS AROUND. IT'S ALSO ONE OF THE SNAPPIEST DRESSERS AND HAS BEEN HANDPAINTED.

THE WEAPONRY!
COMPETITORS SHOULD AVOID THE VICIOUS DIAMONDEDGED CIRCULAR BLADE. ALSO HAS THE WEIGHT TO BE PUSHY IN THE RING AND IS ONE OF THE BEST DRIVEN ROBOTS AROUND.

THE LOWDOWN!
PUSSYCAT WAS PURRING AT THE END OF THE CELEBRITY FINAL WHEN, WITH THE HELP OF EASTENDERS ACTOR ADAM WOODYATT, DICTATOR, AS USUAL, WENT UP IN FLAMES.



RAZER:

When it comes to design, Razer is a cut above the rest, winning the Best Design award in series II and III. Razer is a super-model among robots with a curvy steel and aluminium shell. There are over 450 holes drilled into the body just to keep the weight down.

The Weaponry:
deadly hydraulic piercer that comes down with a hefty force of 9 tonnes.

The Lowdown:
For a robot described as unreliable, Razer's not done badly. Among its haul of trophies, Razer won the first Robot Wars World Championship.

The Website:
razer.co.uk

ROAD BLOCK:

A living legend! The first ever champion, and the runner-up in Series II, Road Block is now retired and happily living in a little garage somewhere in Cornwall!

The Weaponry:
Road Block's wedge-shape was unheard of in the early days. Its terrifying rear-mounted circular saw caused plenty of damage to any bot that came too near.

The Lowdown:
Road Block probably wouldn't last long today, as the present House Robots are twice the size they were in series I.

The Website:
www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~heap/Roadblock.html

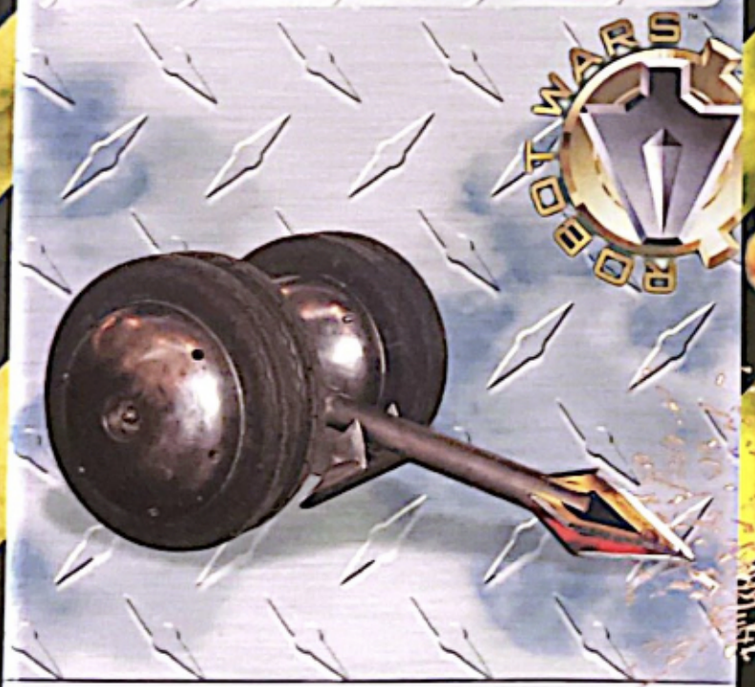
STINGER:

One of the liveliest robots on the circuit, Stinger now goes into battle with both tyres slightly deflated, which makes it much easier to control.

The Weaponry:
It's complicated stuff, but when it gets going the steel axe has more force than a 7 kg bowling ball dropped from almost 30 metres!

The Lowdown:
Stung into action by its defeat in series III – Stinger lasted just 50 seconds before flying into the pit – the robot made amends in series IV. It managed to reach the final stages before being beaten by Chaos 2.

The Website:
robot-stinger.co.uk



STEEL AVENGER:

Voted 'The Best Engineered Robot' in Series IV.

The Weaponry:
There's a cutting blade on the nose to inflict maximum damage when ramming – and a pneumatically-powered arm with interchangeable weapon heads! OUCH!

The Lowdown:
In the last series, first Sergeant Bash flipped Steel Avenger off the rails then, while going in for the kill, Matilda did exactly the same thing!

The Website:
ukonline.co.uk/jwrobots/index.htm

STEG:

Steg's shell may be bullet proof, but it wasn't robot proof, as Iron-Awe proved!

The Weaponry:
A flipper at the back can throw 100kg through the air and it was even strong enough to upend Matilda in the last series.

The Lowdown:
Robot Wars scandal! Team Jurassic Park have split and the captain has brought in his son as his number two, with the rest of the team entering a new robot.

The Website:
www.geocities.com/steg_2/index.html

SPLINTER:

Simple but effective. Wheelchair motors provide the power.

The Weaponry:
Kindly Splinter will simply pick you up with its powerful claws – and leave you in the Perimeter Zone for the house robots!

The Lowdown:
Did well to get to the semi-finals in series IV but was pulverised by Hypno-Disc. The new-look Splinter will be fitted with an axe to provide an added terror factor.

The Website:
members.aol.com/Stuartttttt/Ivanhoe.html

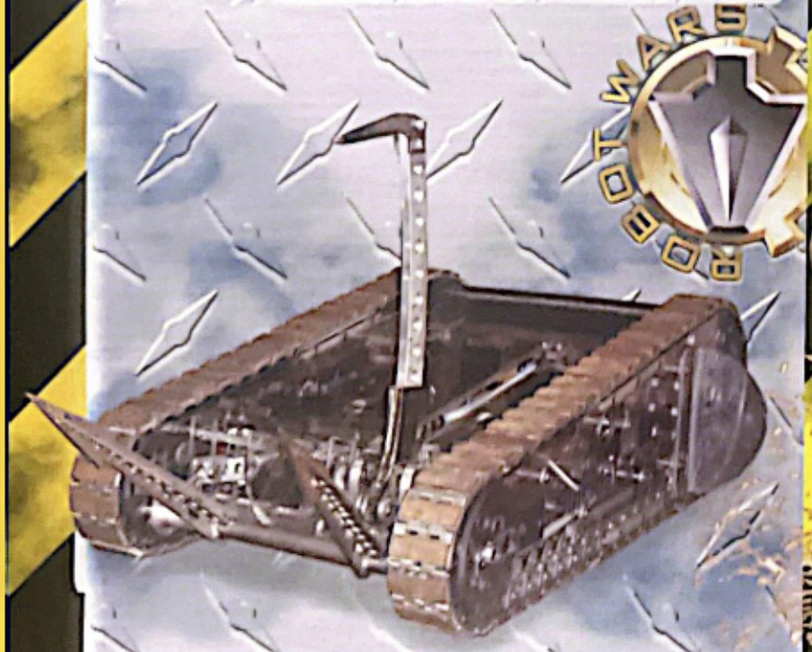
SUICIDAL TENDENCIES:

This robot is fast and pretty much unfluppable, with a transparent shell and tracks for added style.

The Weaponry:
There's four tonnes of pressure in the tip of the axe. But in a heat against a disabled Wheelosaurus, despite a non-aggression pact, ST battered them, smashed their fuel tanks and then set them on fire!

The Lowdown:
rumours that a new-look Suicidal Tendencies has been equipped with bazookas for series V have so far proved to be unfounded.

The Website:
www.suicidaltendencies.co.uk



THE MORGUE:

The secret of this clever robot is its low centre of gravity, which means it can actually roll back the right way up if it gets turned over.

The Weaponry:
The Morgue has an aluminium checker plate complete with welded spike fork that's just perfect for ramming.

The Lowdown:
This team are a strange bunch! They spent the night before their heat singing karaoke songs with any other teams that would join in.

The Website:
www.teachercentre.com/D&T/Robot.htm

WHEELY BIG CHEESE:

While the shell is high-tech and made from the same titanium used to armour plate aircraft, the spikes on the wheels have been borrowed from the humble golf shoe!

The Weaponry:
That flipper might look docile, but it can 'wheely' pack a punch – in fact it can lift up to a tonne!

The Lowdown:
Among captain Roger Plant's claims to fame is building a whopping 28 tonne motor home. Who says you have to be mad to enter Robot Wars!

WILD THING:

With its team captain owning a modelling shop, Wild Thing was always going to look pretty good. This is one of the fastest and most manoeuvrable robots on the circuit.

The Weaponry:
A multipurpose lifting arm that can be used as a stabbing lance as well as a self-righting mechanism.

The Lowdown:
A very tough robot that took on Hypno-Disc in the last eight of series IV – and only lost by one measly little point.

X-TERMINATOR:

This is a speedy but uncontrollable bot – especially when it hits its top speed!

The Weaponry:
The main weapon in series IV was an axe that turned out to be about as much use as a tickling stick! Fortunately, X-terminator also had a pneumatic scoop with which to trap its opponents.

The Lowdown:
Took on Wild Thing in a series IV final but because the arena had accidentally been covered in hydraulic fuel, they couldn't get any traction. What an excuse!

The Website:
www.themix.freeserve.co.uk

THE SECRETS OF THE HOUSE

THE SECRETS OF THE HOUSE

THE GUARDIANS, THE SENTINELS, A COLLECTION OF BUTT-UGLY METAL HEADBALLS. WHATEVER YOU THINK OF THE HOUSE ROBOTS THEY'RE A VITAL PART OF ROBOT WARS, ADDING THEIR OWN SPECIAL BRAND OF VIOLENCE, MAYHEM AND EVEN HUMOUR. TO HELP FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE MACHINES WE TRACKED DOWN THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THEM. HE WOULDN'T TELL US HIS NAME – WE'LL CALL HIM 'THE FOX' FOR NOW – FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS FROM COMPETITORS WHOSE MACHINES HIS MUTANTS HAVE MASHED. BUT HE DID TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT SIR KILLALOT AND FRIENDS.

ROBOT WARS

SIR KILLALOT

THE SELF-STYLED LEADER OF THE GANG! IT ONCE TOOK SIX MEN TO LIFT HIM OUT OF THE PIT!

HYDRAULIC LANCE

HE'S NEVER HAPPIER THAN WHEN HE'S GOT A ROBOT SKEWERED ON HIS LANCE.

CUTTING CLAW

THE CLAW IS A MONSTER, MUTATING TO TWICE THE SIZE IT WAS WHEN FITTED!

THE WEAK SPOT?

THE WAY TO GET HIM IS TO MAKE HIM CHASE YOU AND HOPE HE FALLS INTO THE PIT.

MATILDA

DESPITE HER LOOKS AND A FOUL TEMPER, THERE WAS AN OUTCRY WHEN, DURING THE FOURTH SERIES, MATILDA WAS SET UPON AND GIVEN A TASTE OF HER OWN MEDICINE.

CHAINSAW MASSACRE

THERE'S AN ADJUSTABLE CHAINSAW WHERE HER TAIL SHOULD BE.

TUSKS TO TERRORISE!

MATILDA'S TUSKS ARE CAPABLE OF LIFTING UP TO HALF A TONNE.

THE WEAK SPOT?

HER SHELL IS MADE OF FIBREGLASS.

SHUNT

AFTER THE CARNAGE HAS FINISHED, SHUNT SHOVES ALL THE DEAD BOTS OUT OF THE ARENA.

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER!

THAT DIAMOND-EDGED AXE IS THE MOST POWERFUL EVER TO APPEAR ON ROBOT WARS.

POWER CRAZY!

STRENGTH IS THE SECRET TO HIS SUCCESS.

THE WEAK SPOT?

GET HIM TO LOSE HIS COOL AND THERE'S A CHANCE HE'LL MAKE A MISTAKE.

EYE CAN SEE YOU!

HIS MOVABLE HEAD MEANS HE CAN SEE EVERYTHING AROUND HIM.

REFBOT

THIS ROBOT HAS NO WEAPONS, BUT IF A COMPETITOR PICKS ON HIM, HE'S GOT FIVE BIG MATES LOOKING OUT FOR HIM!

FIRE WARDEN

WATCHING FOR FIRES IS ANOTHER OF REFBOT'S JOBS . . . HENCE THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

GRAB THAT BOT!

HE DOES HAVE A GRABBING ARM AND FRONT PLOUGH FOR SEPARATING OTHER ROBOTS, OR FORCING THEM INTO A CLINCH.

DEAD METAL

HE USED TO BE THE BORING ONE, THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM AND NOW HE'S LIKE A PRAYING MANTIS - AND NO ONE'S SAFE!

CUTTING EDGE

AT 4000 REVS PER MINUTE, THAT LETHAL CUTTING BLADE CAN EVEN SAW THROUGH STEEL GIRDERS.

PERFECT PINCERS

THOSE DEADLY PNEUMATIC PINCERS ARE BASED ON A MACHINE USED BY THE FIRE BRIGADE TO CUT THROUGH METAL!

SGT BASH

HE'S A BIT OF A BULLY, BUT HATES IT IF SOMEONE DARES TO HAVE A GO BACK AT HIM.

REAR ATTACK!

ATTACK BASH FROM BEHIND AND HE'LL USE HIS BUILT-IN CUTTING DISC TO PROTECT HIS NETHER REGIONS.

FETCH THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER!

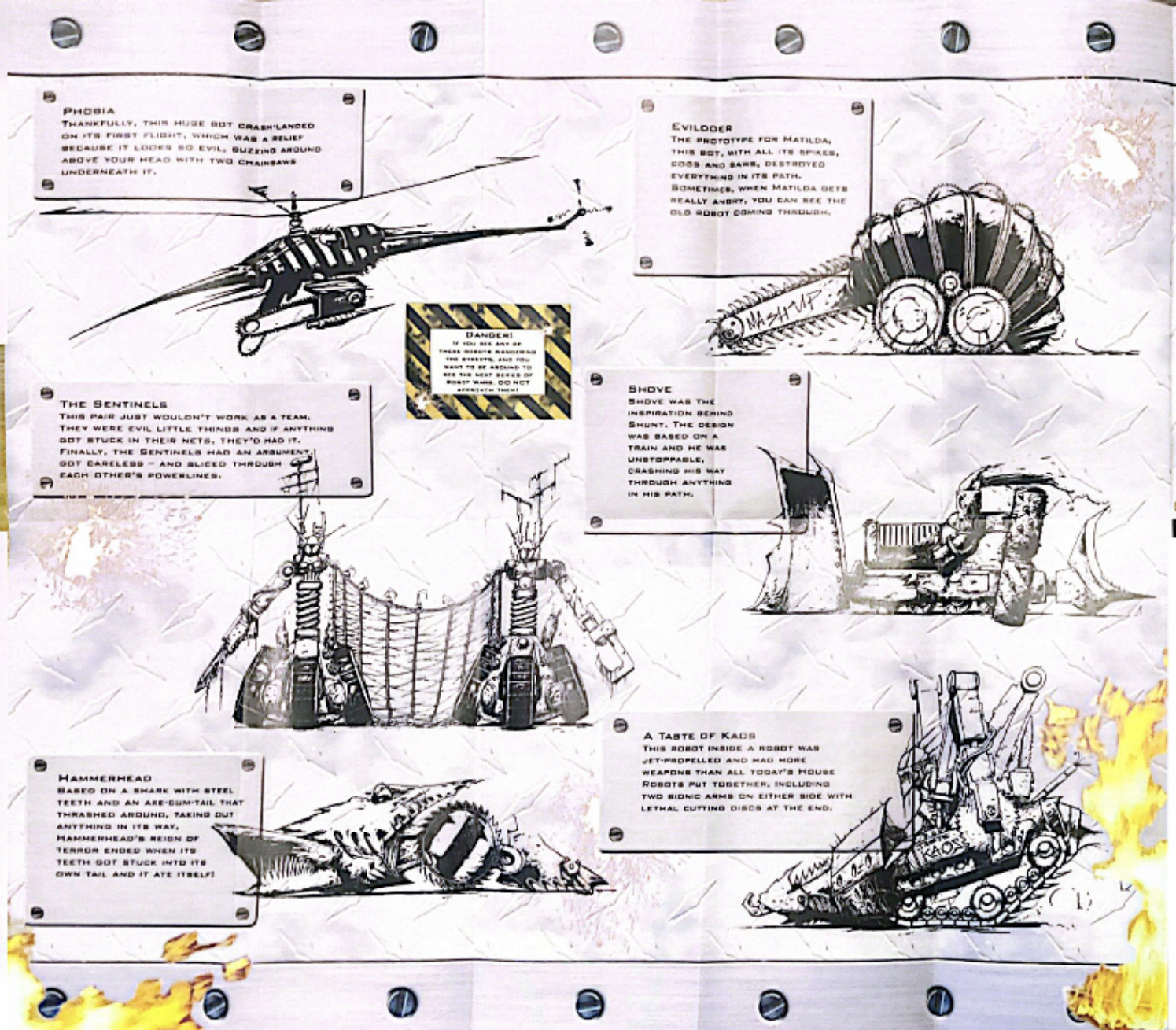
SGT BASH'S MAIN WEAPON IS A MEAN-LOOKING FLAME THROWER.

PROTRUDING PINCERS

THOSE PINCERS WILL CHEW UP ANYTHING THAT GETS TOO CLOSE.

THE WEAK SPOT?

THOSE RUBBER WHEELS ARE JUST RIGHT FOR SHREDDING.



Phobia
Thankfully, this huge bot crash-landed on its first flight, which was a relief because it looks so evil, buzzing around above your head with two chainsaws underneath it.

Eviloder
The prototype for Matilda, this bot, with all its spikes, cogs and saws, destroyed everything in its path. Sometimes, when Matilda gets really angry, you can see the old robot coming through.

Danger!
If you see any of these robots randomly on the streets, and you want to be around to see the next breed of robot wars, do not approach them!

The Sentinels
This pair just wouldn't work as a team. They were evil little things and if anything got stuck in their nets, they'd had it. Finally, the Sentinels had an argument, got careless – and sliced through each other's powerlines.

Shove
Shove was the inspiration behind Shunt. The design was based on a train and he was unstoppable, crashing his way through anything in his path.

Hammerhead
Based on a shark with steel teeth and an axe-cum-tail that thrashed around, taking out anything in its way. Hammerhead's reign of terror ended when its teeth got stuck into its own tail and it ate itself!

A Taste of Kaos
This robot inside a robot was jet-propelled and had more weapons than all today's House Robots put together, including two bionic arms on either side with lethal cutting discs at the end.

BEHIND THE SCENES

PRIMITIVE PROTOTYPES

Robots were not the only thing that The Fox told us about. He also gave us six horrific drawings of early House robot prototypes. 'This is what they wanted me to build,' said The Fox. 'They gave me these sketches back in '95. They were killing machines! I built some toned down versions, but others I sabotaged. I just couldn't unleash them on the world.'

We asked The Fox who 'they' were. 'If you don't know by now, you never will!' he said, his voice quivering.

ROBOT WARS

BEHIND THE SCENES

In The Beginning . . .

Robot Wars was 'activated' in America by film industry technicians who often got bored waiting around for filming to start. The godfather of the sport is a roboteer called Marc Thorpe, who worked on the Indiana Jones films. It all started when he built a radio-controlled vacuum cleaner which didn't work very well – but it did get him thinking.

One of the wackiest Yank-bots featured a powerful magnet which lifted up opponents, while another device 'wrapped' the victim up in sticky tape!

In 1997 Robot Wars hit the screens in the UK. Mentorn, the TV production company behind it, weren't sure if they'd even get enough roboteers to enter.

SPARE PA

House Robots

The House Robots are there to increase the spectacle of the show and if a robot is clearly losing at the end of a fight, then the House Robots will sometimes go in to chop it up as a sort of mercy killing.

A Question of Personality. . .

Chris Reynolds, the man behind the House Robots, wanted each one to have a completely different personality. So – one would look like it came from a building site, one was like an ex-army vehicle, one was a funny organic robot and looked a bit like a dinosaur and another would be made from junkyard material.

Secret of Success?

No one but the designers know how the House Robots really work in case any of the competitors try to copy them.

Slippery Slope!

To help the House Robots move more quickly around the battle zone they put washing-up liquid on their tracks!

The Arena

The Robot Wars arena is encased in a box of 12mm thick bullet-proof Macrolon, similar to the material used on the 'popemobile'! It's now a Robot-only zone and humans only ever venture in when the robots are deactivated.

Keep on Moving!

Robot Wars hasn't had a lot of luck with its venues. The first set was in the Docklands, London, but was knocked down to make way for the Millennium Dome. Then a studio at Elstree proved to be too small – and now Park Street, in St Albans, where series IV was filmed, is also to be razed to the ground.

Best of the Bunch!

As well as the overall champion, prizes are also awarded for 'the Most Original Entry', 'the Best Engineered Robot', 'Sportsmanship' and 'the Best Designed Robot' at the end of every series.

The Rules:

When there's no obvious victor in a battle, it's down to the judges to decide on a winner. They include Martin Smith, who's head of robot research at the University of East London, and Noel Sharkey, professor of Robotics at Sheffield University.

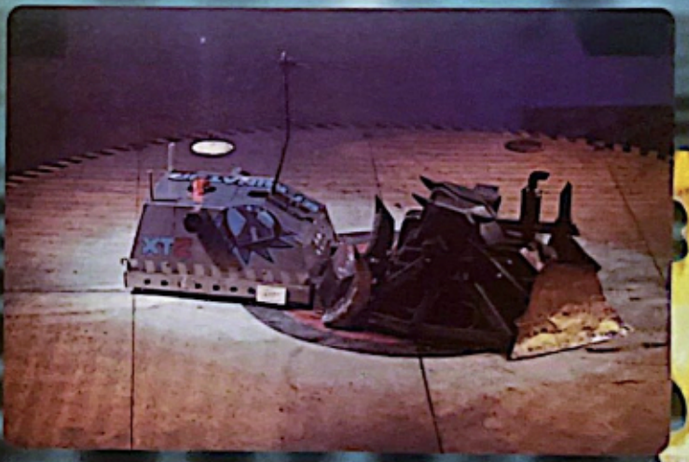
The Annihilator in series IV has proved to be the most popular extra event ever invented for the show. Six determined robots fought to the death! Other events in the show have included Joust, The Gauntlet and Pinball Warrior.

The Future – Series V

You've heard of heavyweight bots – but how about antweight? Well, mini robots weighing a maximum of just 150g are becoming more and more popular because they are so much cheaper to build.

In fact there are changes afoot in the weight categories for series V, with the limit for the main heavyweight competition raised from 80 kgs to 100 kgs. That means better robots and bigger weapons!

So what else does the future hold? How about robots that hover or can even fight on land and the water? The future of robots might even be going organic! There's talk of growing parts, so rather than having a mechanical axe you'll have something that's almost like a muscular axe. After all, muscles work by electrical impulses. But that's far off in the future.



LINGO MADNESS

HERE'S A UNGOLOWDOWN TO SOME OF THOSE PHRASES THAT JUST TRIP OFF CRAIG'S TONGUE!

ROBOTEERS/ROBOT WARRIORS
INDIVIDUALS WHO CREATE AND OPERATE ROBOTS.

THE TRIALS
GAMES AND CHALLENGES DESIGNED TO TEST ROBOTS – THE BIT WHERE ROBOTS GO ON THE ATTACK AND BASH EACH OTHER UP.

THE ARENA
THE ENCLOSED AREA IN WHICH COMBAT TAKES PLACE – ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'COMBAT ARENA' OR THE 'BATTLE ZONE'.

THE PITS
THE AREA WHERE PHILIPPA AND JULES ASK EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS!

WEIGH-IN AREA
WHERE ROBOTS ARE WEIGHED, MEASURED AND THEN PROCESSED.

THE TEST AREA
SEPARATE AREA FOR THE TESTING OF ROBOTS BEFORE COMPETITION OR COMBAT - USUALLY FULL OF SMOKE AND THINGS GOING BANG!

PITS MARSHALLS
THESE ARE THE OFFICIALS WHO POLICE THE PITS AREA AND ENSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES ARE BEING STRICTLY MET.

ADJUDICATORS
OFFICIALS WHO JUDGE CHALLENGES AND BATTLES IN THE EVENT OF DRAWS OR INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS. THEY'RE EITHER THE MOST POPULAR PEOPLE ON THE SHOW, OR SOMETIMES THE MOST HATED!

GRUDGE MATCHES
A BATTLE FEATURING TWO OR MORE ROBOTS TO SETTLE A DISAGREEMENT OR GRUDGE.

EXCESSIVE EVASION
TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE COWARDLY BEHAVIOUR OF A ROBOT THAT WON'T FIGHT FOR FEAR OF GETTING DESTROYED!

In the hot seat: Jonathan Pearce

The man in the commentary box for Robot Wars is Jonathan Pearce. Before he took up journalism Jonathan was a keen footballer, training with Bristol City. But he failed to make the grade.

How did you get involved in Robot Wars?

I was lying on a Caribbean beach when I saw this vision of Matilda waddling towards me. I just fell in love – and I've been hooked ever since!

Have you offended anyone with your off-the-cuff remarks?

Probably. But I've got Killalot as a bodyguard, so I should be safe!

Which has been your favourite competitor?

That's easy. It's got to be Diótóir. His roboteers are completely mad!

In the hot seat: Julia Reed

Series IV welcomed a new presenter, Julia Reed. Here she reveals how she fell in love with Killalot – then got the elbow!

Favourite House Robot?

I thought Sir Killalot and I had something special – then Robobabe came along and stole his heart!

Favourite team?

I loved the Pussycat team. Their robot exceeded all expectations. They also took out Hypno-disc with an amazing bit of driving.

Do you think it's odd that people spend so much time and money building robots?

No, people do it for the thrill of the battles and because they enjoy the teamwork of building the thing.

In the hot seat: Craig Charles

A Liverpudlian born and bred, Craig Charles is a cult character on TV. Not only does he present Robot Wars but he's been a regular on the TV series Red Dwarf since it began.

How did you get involved with Robot Wars?

My son Jack was a fan of the first series and said I should get involved. So I made a few phone calls and the rest is history!

It's a pretty easy way to earn a living though . . .

You must be joking! Robot Wars is the most tiring thing I've ever done!

What's the best bit about Robot Wars?

It's got to be the fighting, hasn't it? I love it! I'm not a violent person but I really get into all that action . . . that's when those one-liners start to fly out!

So could you build your own robot?

No chance – I can't even wire a plug! I'm useless at all things technical.

And your favourite House Robot?

I couldn't possibly say – they're all characters in their own right. And if I choose one then the others would all be after me.

What's all this about poetry?

You may laugh but I've won a few prizes, including one at school for a poem called 'I Want To Feel Your Bum But I Know You'll Slap My Hand'.

Any other favourite TV shows?

I've always been a fan of Star Trek, and I'd love a part in Star Wars.

Which living person do you most admire?

Simple that one – Nelson Mandela.

In the hot seat: Philippa Forrester

Were you involved in Robot Wars right from the beginning?

Yes. There were 24 robots. Not all of them would work on the day and some had to be pulled by fishing wire.

What have been the biggest changes over the series?

The amount of people and robots involved has increased; The sets are bigger and better – and safety has to be a priority, as the weapons are pretty scary!

How are you treated?

Very well. The roboteers take the mickey out of me because I know hardly anything about robots.

Are you surprised at how successful the show has been?

yes! No one realised it would take off in the way it has. It was even nominated for a BAFTA which makes me immensely proud.

should there be more female competitors, or is it really a boy's thing?

There's no reason why girls shouldn't compete, but more boys are interested.

How different is RW to other shows you've been in?

Very different. There's an amazing sense of team spirit and firm friendships are forged on the set. If teams get knocked out they will often stay around to help fix other robots if they get damaged.

Favourite House Robot?

Matilda – 'cos she's a girl!

Favourite team?

The Irish team – Diótóir, a red furry robot with black dots that always catches fire. They are great fun – and they help everyone else after being knocked out.

Most embarrassing moment on the show?

None in particular – just my general lack of engineering knowledge.

NUMBER CRUNCHING

GET YOUR HEAD ROUND THIS LOT . . .

126
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CREW THAT PRODUCE ROBOT WARS.

80
NUMBER OF LITRES OF GAS USED TO POWER THE FEARSOME FLAME THROWERS AND BARBECUE PIT IN EACH SHOW.

£50,000
HOW MUCH IT WOULD HAVE COST TO BUILD MORTIS HAD EVERYTHING COME 'OFF THE SHELF'. IT'S THE MOST EXPENSIVE ROBOT WARS COMPETITOR EVER.

£1.01
THAT'S THE COST OF THE CHEAPEST EVER ENTRANT, CALLED 101. MOST OF THE PARTS WERE DONATED.

250KG
KILLALOT'S WEIGHT! COULD IT BE TIME FOR THIS BOT TO GO ON A DIET – AND DO YOU WANT TO BE THE ONE TO TELL HIM?

OVER 1000
THE NUMBER OF ROBOTEERS WHO APPLIED FOR A PLACE ON SERIES IV.

5000
THE NUMBER OF APPLICATION FORMS SENT OUT FOR SERIES V!

SPARE PARTS

ROBOT WARS

Splinter
Team Ivanhoe

CAUTION

ROBOT WARS
LET THE WARS BEGIN
KICK BOT!
ROBOT WARS
ROBOT WARS